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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Kazuhiro TAKEUCHI

Serial No.: 10/018,477

Group Art Unit: 2651

Filed: December 19, 2001

Examiner: Unassigned

For: OPTICAL DISC APPARATUS AND
OPTICAL DISC DISCRIMINATING METHOD

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AUG 19 2002

Technology Center 2600

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the reference listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. A copy of the reference listed on Form PTO-1449 is attached.

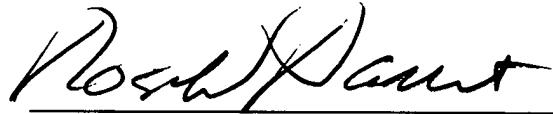
The attached reference was cited in an Office Action mailed July 23, 2002 in the corresponding Japanese patent application.

The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office may, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. See 37 C.F.R.

1.104(a) and 1.106(b) concerning the PTO duty to consider and use any such information. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the reference be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

Respectfully submitted,

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August 14, 2002

Date

RWP/mhs

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